

Conflict

Review A **conflict** is a struggle between two opposing forces in the plot of a story or novel. An **external conflict** occurs when a character struggles against an outside force, such as nature or another person. An **internal conflict** takes place within a character’s own mind.

Directions: First **read** the boxed story. Then **complete** the graphic organizer. **Write** one example of each type of conflict in the story.

If you ask me, playing for the Rivington Tigers is more trouble than it’s worth. Take last night’s game, for example. The rain started during the second inning, and the game was delayed. So for an hour we sat in the dugout, bored and annoyed, as the infield turn to soup.

When the sky finally cleared, the umpired yelled, “Play ball!” and I headed out to take my place in the mud around second base. The first grounder hit a puddle in front of me, and in the muddy splash I missed the ball. The next grounder was to my left, and I slipped and fell in the mud trying to get it.

“Two errors in one inning!” a voice boomed. “That’s got to be a record, Evan, even for you.” It was my so-called “friend” Tyrone; I tried to ignore him. “You’re supposed to get the ball, not go swimming!” he shouted next. “Which team are you playing for anyway?” I gave him a dirty look and shook my fist.

As a result of my errors, the Bears were ahead by four runs. Nevertheless, inning by inning, the Tigers struggled back. When it was my time to bat in the sixth inning, we were only one run behind. I was ready to even it up. That’s when the umpire made his decision.

“According to the league rules, I have to stop this game due to darkness,” he announced. “The Bears win it!” All the Tiger players moaned and groaned. It was totally unfair, but the rules are the rules.

So now I’m left wondering whether playing for the Tigers is really worth it. It’s not that I don’t love baseball; to me it’s the ideal sport. Playing it though it another story—and an endless frustration.

1. Force of Nature

2. Other Character

Evan

3. Society

4. Internal Conflict